



**Town Recreational Shellfishing Crier
November 25, 2020**

1. Enforcement Changes in 2021

2020 was a very busy year on the Wellfleet recreational shellfishing flats. More people went shellfishing each week than we had ever seen or documented, which meant that there was an increase of pressure on the Town's shellfish resources. As a part of our continuing education and enforcement of Town of Wellfleet shellfishing regulations, we would like to inform you in advance about our enforcement methods for 2021. We are entrusted by both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Wellfleet to uphold state and town laws and regulations in both the commercial and recreational fisheries. This is all part of our mission and directive to ensure a sustainable shellfish fishery for today and into the future.

Starting on January 1, 2021, if you are found in violation of any of our regulations and depending on the severity of the violation, your permit will either be marked and noted, which will constitute a written warning, or we will issue you a ticket for \$50, and/or we will confiscate your catch. If you are found in violation of a regulation again – and again depending on severity and previous violation, you will be issued a ticket and/or have your catch confiscated according to the Town's regulations, Section 11.5. Penalty Fees: "The penalties for violation of any of these regulations shall be assigned by the Shellfish Department and shall consist of a fine of \$50 for the first offense, a fine of \$150 for the second offense, and a fine of \$300 for the third offense. In the event of a fourth offense within a period of 5 years, there will be an automatic permit suspension."

IMPORTANT TAKE-AWAYS

1. Taking of Seed Prohibited: oysters must measure at least three inches long, quahogs must measure at least one inch across the hinge width, soft shell clams (steamers) must measure at least two inches long and bay scallops must have an easily discernable (by sight and touch) annual growth ring. By allowing shellfish to mature to legal sizes, you can reasonably assume that the animal has spawned, thus contributing to the population of wild shellfish in Wellfleet Harbor.
2. Limits: Each recreational permit holder is allowed one 10-quart basket a week of any kind of mixed shellfish. Once shellfish is in your basket, it is considered your catch; therefore, you should measure and cull as you go before placing it in your basket. The new week begins on Sundays.
3. Open/Closed Days: From June 1 to September 30, recreational shellfishing can only take place at the Indian Neck recreational shellfishing area and only on Sundays and Wednesdays. From October 1 through May 31, the Indian Neck recreational shellfishing area and all of South Wellfleet is open to recreational shellfishing seven days a week. From the last Sunday in October to April 30, Chipman's Cove is also open to recreational harvest seven days/week.

4. Other Regulations: Please familiarize yourself with our regulations [here](#). The high points are also printed on the permit you receive each year.

We thank you in advance for your help in ensuring a prolific future for our wild shellfish in Wellfleet Harbor. We are undertaking many propagation efforts to supplement Mother Nature so that there are plenty of legal shellfish for you all to harvest. It takes a village!

2. **Recreational Shellfishing Permits Go on Sale Next Tuesday, December 1 ONLINE or By Mail**

Due to the coronavirus, all shellfishing permits are being sold either online or by mail this year. Click [here](#) to buy it online starting next Tuesday, Dec. 1. PLEASE NOTE: There will be a two-business day turn-around time, so please plan ahead. Permits are valid January 1 – December 31, 2021. If you buy your permit online in January, please remember that there will be a waiting period for us to turn it around for you, and you will not be able to shellfish during the waiting period. Once approved, permits purchased online will be put in the open slot in the back of the tax payment mailbox to the right of the back door to Town Hall. If you apply by mail, please download the application [here](#) and enclose your check made out to the Town of Wellfleet and a self-addressed stamped envelope so that we can mail it back to you. Please call the Shellfish Department with any questions or for assistance: 508-349-0325.

We will be including an educational brochure with all permits this year. You are responsible for using measuring devices when you go shellfishing. We are happy to provide free 3-inch PVC pipe rings at each entrance to the Indian Neck recreational shellfishing area and at our office on the pier.

3. **COLD WEATHER REMINDER**

This is the weather station we use to determine air temperature:

<https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ma/wellfleet/KMAWELLF8>

When the temperature goes below 28 degrees F, no shellfish harvesting is allowed in the wild. Keep your eye on the big pink buoy (the ball) to the right of our office door. Up = closed; down = open.

Please note that when the Marina station goes down, Weather Underground defaults to the Provincetown Airport, which we do not use. If this happens, we ask the Harbormasters to reboot their station, so we get an accurate read for Wellfleet.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov or 508-349-0325 with ideas on how the Shellfish Department can help or improve shellfishing. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla
Deputy Shellfish Constable